



YATIKA STARR FIELDS:

Connecting Roads from Past to Present

EDUCATORS PACKET



**MUSEUM
OF
ART**

720 South Husband Street, Stillwater, OK 74074
405.744.2780 | museum@okstate.edu | museum.okstate.edu

ARTWORK DETAILS

Reading an Object Label

When visiting a museum, you may see a label next to a work of art. The label has information about the artwork and the person or people who created the work.

Artist name, nationality, birth and death date (if the artist is deceased)	Yatika Starr Fields (Cherokee, Creek, and Osage, b. 1980)
Artwork title, year completed	<i>Connecting Roads from Past to Present</i> , 2013
Materials used to create the work	Acrylic, spray paint, and gold leaf on canvas
Credit line – many works in museums are gifts from donors or loans from other museums and patrons	Funded by the generous donation of Ann Holmes Parker
Acquisition number – This helps museum staff keep track of the work. Usually, it is a number assigned by the museum. Knowing this number is helpful when asking the museum staff for more information about the work.	2013.005.001
Some labels provide the viewer with more context about the artwork. Curators usually write the text. They may include details from the artists' life and influences, or more information about the time in which it was created. Some curators may provide viewers with questions to consider, or a comparison to another work.	Many painters work from a plan, but Fields prefers to go with the flow. His process is fast, fluid, and rhythmic. Perhaps chaotic at first glance, the composition is ultimately harmonious and the colors balanced. Fields was born and raised here in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He has since traveled across the United States and abroad creating vibrant murals. His Native roots, the pulse of Hip-Hop, and the spontaneity of graffiti have all been significant artistic influences for him. The title <i>Connecting Roads from Past to Present</i> references the visual synthesis of his rural past and his urban present. What elements of nature and graffiti do you see in the painting? Can you see features of the artist's Native American heritage and his love for Hip-Hop?

About the artist

Fields is from Stillwater, OK and graduated Stillwater High School in 2000. His father is a photographer and his mother is a ceramicist. He attended the Art Institute of Boston. He gravitated towards graffiti and street art and eventually moved from Boston to NYC. He traveled around Europe and the Pacific Rim participating in “art battles” (timed painting completion done “live” and judged by the audience on site). While living in NYC, he worked as bicycle messenger and really began to build his name as an artist. He works largely in oils on canvas. In 2013, he was invited to be the first Visiting Artist at the OSU Museum of Art. The invitational program, funded by Ken and Mary Ann Ferguson, allowed Fields to work with students to create a 60 ft (10 panels, 6 ft long each) continuous “live painting” (at the Student Union) to an improvisational performance of Terry Riley’s composition, “In C.” The murals, of the same name, are displayed in the Seretean Center for the Performing Arts. It was an exploration of the concept of synesthesias [sin-uh s-thee-zuh, -zhee-uh, -zee-uh]. While working with the students, he completed the mural at the OSU Museum of Art.

About the artwork

The mural was conceived as a response to the 1963 mural by Grace Hamilton, *History of Payne County*. It is an expression of Fields’s own sense of the essence and beauty of Payne County, from the sunset, to blue skies, to leaves moving. He uses vibrant colors to emulate the feeling he gets about Oklahoma and Payne County. The gold represents the people in the community and the richness of those people, “together we do a lot, together we survive” (Fields).

Fields worked on site for two weeks while the final stages of renovation happened around him. He often worked at night after painters and floor sanders had left for the day. He stood on scaffolding and documented his process (a time-lapse of his process can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/l2qAoxcnOgQ> “Painting a Mural by Yatika Starr Fields” on YouTube, posted by pendo22)

Curricular connections

Elements and principles of art (particularly shape, line, color, rhythm, line, pattern, emphasis), Contemporary art, Visual literacy

BOOKING A TOUR OR VISIT

PK-12 tours are inquiry-based encouraging students of all abilities to engage with art and each other by looking deeply and thinking creatively and critically. Students make personal and curricular connections through discussion, writing, and hands-on activities.

We welcome both public school groups and homeschoolers. Admission to the museum is always free. To book a tour, please visit <http://museum.okstate.edu/tours>.

For more information, to discuss programming, or to request a transportation or substitute teacher subsidy, please contact Cat de Araujo, Associate Curator of Education (PK-12), at (405)744-2777 or catarin@okstate.edu.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Painting a Mural by Yatika Starr Fields**

A time-lapse video of the creation of his mural.

<https://youtu.be/l2qAoxcnOgQ>

- **Live Painting Performance with Yatika Fields**

An OState TV video of the live painting performance, a collaboration between the OSU art and music departments, and the artist.

http://www.ostate.tv/play/z712UilO7vCXcZTO6l6G5zm0q9R_7z5C?t=86

- **Full Interview: Artist Yatika Fields**

OState Report anchor Nikola Paschal's full interview with Artist Yatika Fields.

<http://www.ostate.tv/play/04CC7EF3-44B4-64B7-F17A-D03C27BA242C?t=72>

- **Postal Plaza Visiting Artist Yatika Fields**

An Ostate TV video introducing Yatika's mural and the visiting artist project.

<http://www.ostate.tv/play/2072CAE1-8F0E-A60F-1688-7BD6348FBA1A?t=54>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND LESSON PLANS

Looking and Talking

What do you see? (Objects, lines, shapes, colors – a visual checklist of basic information)

What is happening in this work of art? (What are the relationships, or stories, that might be taking place?)

What makes you say that? (Support your ideas.)

Does it remind you of anything? How do you connect to this piece? (Images, energy, emotion, etc.)

Compare | Contrast | Create

Take a look at Yatika Fields's mural. Now, look at Grace Hamilton's mural, *The History of Payne County*. Images of each are included in this packet. Both artists created works that they felt represented Payne County.

- What do you know about Payne County?
- What can you infer about the county's past based on Hamilton's mural?
- How does Fields' mural differ?
- Are there any similarities between the two murals?
- Why do think the murals are so different?
- Why do you think Fields' chose to create a more abstract work of art?
 - **ABSTRACT:** non-representational. Abstract art uses shape, color, and line to show an artist's *idea(s) about characteristics people/places/things might have* rather than specific details of people/places/things.

ACTIVITY: Now it's your turn to depict Payne County! Draw/paint/describe your idea of Payne County. Try creating a representational version *and* an abstract version. Does one tell you more about Payne County (or your ideas about Payne County) than the other?

If you have trouble creating an abstract work, consider the following questions:

- How does Payne County feel?
- What are the people like?
- What are the places like?
- What is it like during your favorite season?
- What do you like to do in Payne County?

Now, translate your thoughts to shapes, colors, and lines. What colors and shapes do you feel represent those feelings and thoughts? If you were to draw a line to represent those ideas and thoughts, what would it look like? Would it be short, long, thick, thin, bumpy, squiggly, sharp, soft, messy, clean, loose, tight, etc.?

REFERENCE IMAGES



Yatika Starr Fields (Cherokee, Creek, and Osage, b. 1980). *Connecting Roads from Past to Present*, 2013 Acrylic, spray paint, and gold leaf on canvas



Grace Hamilton (American, 1894-1992). *History of Payne County*, 1963. Tempera on canvas glued to plaster